

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4–6, 8, 9 and 13–15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Peebles (US 2002/0003163 A1; issued as US 6,454,163). Claims 3, 7 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peebles in view of Yuge (US 5,247,159; cited by Applicants), while Claims 10 and 11 were rejected as being unpatentable over Peebles in view of Blackson (US 7,140,537). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Peebles discloses an automated teller machine (ATM) 10 that receives and dispenses bank notes to users. A bundle of bank notes 34 is deposited into, or withdrawn from, receptacle 32 through media entry/exit slot 12. During the processing of bank note bundle 34, Peebles' receptacle 32 is moved to four different locations, defined as the "forward, central, rear and top positions." *See, e.g.,* FIGS. 2a-f, 3a-f; Col. 5:36–52; Col. 6:11–19; etc. Applicants respectfully submit that Peebles fails to teach or suggest that each deposit is fed into a separate carrier, as recited by previously presented Claims 1 and 9. To the contrary, Peebles simply uses the same carrier, i.e., receptacle 32, for each deposit. Furthermore, Peebles fails to disclose a sensor for detecting at least one of the beginning or end of each deposit. Instead, Peebles merely discloses two bank note sensors that measure the thickness and denomination of each individual bank note, i.e., note thickness sensor 20 and note identification sensor 22. *See, e.g.* Col. 4:51–62, etc. Consequently, Peebles fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited by previously presented Claims 1 and 9. Applicants also submit that none of the remaining references cures Peebles deficiencies.

New Claim 16 is directed to an apparatus for processing bank notes present as separate deposits, recites the same limitations as previously presented Claim 9, and is allowable at least for the reasons discussed above.

In order to secure an expedited Notice of Allowance, Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to comport with the claims that were granted in a related European patent.¹ Specifically, the features recited by Claims 10 and 11 have been incorporated into Claim 9, the features recited by Claim 2 (and Claim 11) have been incorporated into Claim 1, and Claims 2, 10 and 11 have been canceled accordingly. The claims have also been amended, generally, to

¹ *See*, EP 1 516 295 B1, granted April 6, 2006, claiming priority to DE 1026540 (filed June 14, 2002).

remove parenthetical reference numbers. No new matter has been added, and Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 9, as amended, is directed to an apparatus for processing bank notes present as separate deposits and recites, *inter alia*, a transport device for transporting carriers containing deposits to a singler of a bank note processing machine, in which each carrier has a unique marking. As discussed above, Peebles fails to disclose the use of multiple carriers to transport individual deposits, and, more particularly, the use of multiple, uniquely-marked carriers to transport individual deposits. To the contrary, Peebles merely discloses the use of a single receptacle 34. Furthermore, Peebles fails to teach or suggest the use of three sensors to detect the unique marking of each carrier and the information associated with each deposit, as recited by Claim 9. Instead, as discussed above, Peebles discloses two bank note sensors that measure the thickness and denomination of each individual bank note, i.e., note thickness sensor 20 and note identification sensor 22. Moreover, Peebles fails to disclose joining the information associated with each deposit, detected by the third sensor, with the unique marking of each respective carrier, detected by the first sensor, as recited by Claim 9. Simply stated, because Peebles' ATM 10 processes a single deposit, there is no need to correlate the information associated with a deposit, detected by one sensor, with the unique marking of the carrier in which the deposit is transported, detected by another sensor. Claim 1 is directed to a method for processing bank notes present as separate deposits, and recites similar subject matter. Consequently, Applicant submits that Peebles fails to teach or suggest all of the features recited by Claims 1 and 9.

Moreover, Applicants submit that none of the remaining references cures the deficiencies of Peebles. Blackson discloses an automated banking machine 10 that accepts envelopes, deposited by a user, upon which deposit-related indicia are recorded by printer 78. Applicants submit that Blackson fails to teach or suggest a sensor for detecting at least one of the beginning or end of each deposit, the use of multiple, uniquely-marked carriers, or joining the detected information associated with each deposit with the detected unique marking of each respective carrier, as recited by Claims 1 and 9. To the contrary, each of Blackson's envelopes are simply printed with a customer identity and a deposit value, which are, of course, not necessarily unique. See, e.g., FIGS. 2, 3 and 7; Col. 7:7-12, Col. 8:10-13, etc.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 9 and 16 are allowable over the cited references. Claims 3–8, depending from Claim 1, and Claims 12–15, depending from Claim 9, are also allowable, as at least for the reasons discussed above.

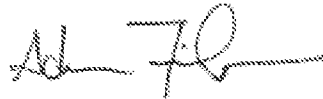
In view of the amendments and remarks presented herein, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and should now be passed to issue.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

Respectfully submitted,



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